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E - 102,190

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NOV 28 1976

Bush's Legacy

The 11 months of George Bush's tenure as director of the CIA have been immensely successful. It is ironic that he is leaving to insure that the agency will have what Bush set out to give it — unrestricted access to the President.

Most of the CIA's past troubles resulted from cold and wary relationships between the White House tenants and the CIA's directors.

While new review procedures insure against the risks of tolerating covert ineffectiveness and uncontrolled actions by any member of the vast intelligence community, it is essential that the President and the CIA boss have a solid working relationship, untainted by politics.

Bush's dealings with President Ford have been remarkably appropriate and correct as both men sought to avoid past errors. Agency officials and key congressmen confirm that Bush has performed skillfully. Because of his political background, the ex-GOP senator was extra careful to keep his dealings professional.

Bush, along with the constructive and sensitive help from a congressional select committee, has restored the CIA's morale and increased public and congressional confidence.

It has been no small accomplishment considering the agency's deep troubles, overzealous reformers and the inherently touchy nature of the agency's business.